

CONTENTS

The Fourth Conference	1
Declaration	3
Report of the Official Meeting	5
Member Societies	6

1998

09

December

N ewsletter

ESAFS

EAST AND SOUTHEAST ASIA FEDERATION OF SOIL SCIENCE SOCIETIES

EAST AND SOUTHEAST ASIA FEDERATION OF SOIL SCIENCE SOCIETIES

THE FOURTH ESAFS CONFERENCE

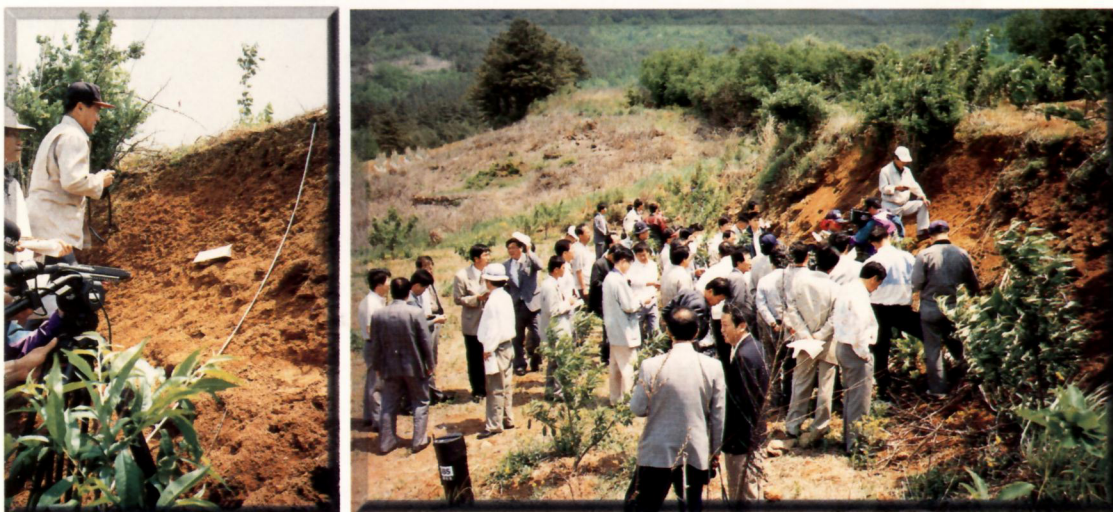
"Soil Quality Management and Agro-Ecosystem Health"

November 11-14, 1997

Cheju, Korea

The fourth East and Southeast Asia Federation of Soil Science Societies conference was held at Grand Hotel in Cheju during the period of November 11-14, 1997 with a theme "Soil Quality Management and Agro-Ecosystem Health". Over 300 scientists and professionals in soil science area, including 40 people from 16 countries or international organizations, celebrated this conference. The conference was organized to bring together the scientists and professionals in the East and Southeast Asia Regions, for sharing their knowledges and experiences on various aspects of soil quality management and agroecosystem health.

Starting registration at the Grand Hotel in Cheju the conference began in November 10, 1997. Participants of the conference, both from home and abroad, arrived at the airport one after another until midnight.



On November 11, 1997 the conference started officially with introductory remarks by Dr. Sun-Ho Yoo, Chairman of the Organizing Committee, followed by opening address by Dr. J.

Shamshuddin, President of ESAFS, welcoming addresses by the president of the Korean Society of Soil Science and Fertilizer and by the governor of Cheju province. Dr. W. E. H. Blum, Secretary General of ISSS, and Dr. Dong-Hun Lee, president of the Korea Fertilizer Industry Association, also congratulated the conference in their congratulatory addresses.

After short break, Dr. Keeney, Director of the Leopold Center for Sustainable Agriculture, presented the keynote speech titled "Linking Soil Quality, Water Quality, and Agroecosystem Health". Technical sessions began following lunch. Seven sessions for oral presentation were Assessment of Soil Resources, Soil Resources Management for Sustainable Agriculture, Efficiency and Behavior of Plant Nutrients in the Soil, Utilization of Bio-resources for Sustainable Soil Management, Soil Fertility Management, Utilization of Waste Resources, and Other Topics related to the Management of Soil, Water, and Crops. Six poster presentation sessions including Soil Resources Assessment and Management, Fertilizer and Plant Nutrient Management, Utilization of Waste Resources, Use of Microorganisms, Other Topics on Agroecosystem Health, and Cheju and Citrus were held side by side.



On November 13 after all technical sessions were over, the ESAFS business meeting was held at the Sapphire Room in Grand Hotel to discuss matters related to the structure, finance and activities of the Federation according to the general rules for the Federation. Following the business meeting there was a farewell party for all conference participants. Over 300 people enjoyed friendly atmosphere as well as delicious food and spirits.

The one-hour evening city tour to drive through the downtown Cheju and suburbs was arranged on November 12. A field trip for all participants of the conference was also organized on November 14. The trip involved visits to a typical Cheju farm, a recently established fertilizer factory to supply the bulk blended fertilizers, and a site to observe a typical soil profile that occurred in Cheju Island.

DECLARATION

The theme of the Conference "Soil Quality Management and Agro-ecosystem Health" stems from the increasing on- and off-site stresses of agro-ecosystems in Asia as a whole and specifically in the region. The recent forest-fires in Indonesia with accompanying reduction of air quality of much of the region, is a reminder to the countries of transnational character of ecosystems. There is the urgent need for a unified approach to address the problems, develop early warning indicators, implement mitigating technologies, and assist in policy development.

The Conference recognized the fact that quality soils contribute to healthy agro-ecosystem. From the point of view of biodiversity, agro-ecosystems (AES) are disturbed systems where species regeneration by natural processes is significantly reduced or hampered by human induced processes. However, AES must be carefully managed, controlled, and manipulated to produce food and fiber. AES are sustainable to the extent that humans make them. Conversion of natural ecosystems to AES requires trade-off. Such trade-off is essential to provide nations with the fundamental basis for sustaining human societies. The trade-off becomes critical when limits of the land resources are reached and as populations push or cross the threshold of the carrying capacity of the resources base as is happening in many parts of Asia.

With the burgeoning population and new demands for land resources, sustainable land management has taken a new dimension unparalleled in the history and culture of Asian countries. Tools to address this, including information technology such as Geographical Information Systems and Decision Support Systems, are becoming increasingly available. Concepts, methods, and standards are being developed and some were highlighted in the Conference. One of these is soil quality and it is increasingly being recognized that soil quality is the parameter that could be linked not only to land performance but also for general assessment of ecosystem health.

The major findings of the Conference include the:

- ◆ Realization that agriculture is only one of several land-uses (such as urban and industrial development, tourism etc.) and consequently there is a competition in space and time with agriculture which must be addressed.
- ◆ Recognition that over-utilization of only one of the resource functions is tantamount to exploitation, resulting in degradation of the resources base, and that sustainability calls for seeking optimal levels for each of the multiple functions.

- ◆ Recognition that nature already has highly evolved processes of conversion, distribution, filtration, assimilation, and storage, and that working with nature to facilitate these landscape functions is intelligent.
- ◆ Appreciation of the symbiotic relationship and interdependencies of landscape components and the fact that each of the functions (such as energy generation, shelter, water management, food production, and waste management, food production, and waste recycling) should be considered in totality for sustained use of landscape; and
- ◆ Acceptance of the fact that manipulation of parts of landscape for human needs impacts the whole ecosystem; thus the processes and functions of each part and their linkages to the whole should be understood prior to exploitation.

The Conference concluded that the challenge we face today is to:

1. mobilize the scientific community in Asia to mount an integrated program for methods, standards, databases, and research networks for assessment, monitoring, and remediation of soil quality;
2. develop land-use models that incorporate both natural and human-induced factors that contribute to land degradation and that could be used for soil quality assessment, land-use planning and management, and implementation of mitigation technologies;
3. use information technology to develop systems that link environmental monitoring, accounting, and impact assessment to land degradation and remediation;
4. help develop policies that encourage sustainable agriculture; and
5. include economic instruments in the assessment of soil quality to encourage the sustainable use of land resources.

Finally, it was evident that no single institution or country can accomplish this agenda in short time that the magnitude of the problem demands. Cooperation and collaboration is vital in this respect. There is an urgent need to establish an Asian Center that will serve as a clearing house for information and provide necessary assistance to institutions or counties in their quest for sustainable agriculture.

The Conference recommended the East and Southeast Asia Federation of Soil Science Societies take the leadership to establish the Asian Soils and Environment Research Information Center (ASERIC)

OFFICIAL MEETING OF ESAFS AT CHEJU

November 13, 1997

Sapphire Room, Grand Hotel

The attendees for the official meeting during the period of the Fourth International Conference on Soil Quality Management and Agro-Ecosystem Health held at Cheju were as follows:

Dr. Sultana Razia, Bangladesh
Dr. Safiur Rhaman, Bangladesh
Dr. Zhihong Cao, China
Dr. Ranswami P. Nagarajan, India
Dr. M. C. Oswal, India
Dr. Kazutake Kyuma, Japan
Dr. Toshiaki Tadano, Japan
Dr. Chong-Woon Hong, Korea
Dr. Kwang-Shik Kim, Korea
Dr. Sun-Ho Yoo, Korea
Dr. J. Shamshuddin, Malaysia
Dr. Rogelio Concepcion, The Philippines
Dr. Ranjith B. Mapa, Sri Lanka
Dr. Zueng-Sang Chen, Taiwan
Dr. Irb Kheoruenromne, Thailand
Dr. Tasnee Attanandana, Thailand

Dr. J. Shamshuddin, president of ESAFS, chaired the meeting. The following are the summary of the meeting.

- (1) Activities done by ESAFS since last meeting was reported and activities that need to be carried out during this term (' 97 - ' 99) were discussed.
- (2) President for the term ' 97 - ' 99, Dr. In-Soo Yoo, was addressed.
- (3) The Office of the Federation for the next term (' 99 - ' 01) was discussed. After discussion, Soil and Fertilizer Society of Thailand was decided to hold the Office of the Federation for the next term.
- (4) Since the Conference recommended the East and Southeast Asia Federation of Soil Science Societies take the leadership to establish the Asian Soils and Environment Research Information Center (ASERIC), in depth discussion on establishment of ASERIC was dealt with. Korea showed its interest to attract headquarter of ASERIC in Korea.

THE MEMBER SOCIETIES

Bangladesh

Dr. Md. Fazleah Ali, Secretary General
Soil Science Society of Bangladesh
SRDI, Khamar Bari Sarak
Farm Gate, New Airport Road, Dhaka-1215
Bangladesh
Tel: +880-2-822382
Fax: +880-2-810600

China

The Secretary General
Soil Science Society of China
c/o The Institute of Soil Science
Academia Sinica
71 East Beijing Road
Nanjing 210008
China
Tel: +86-25-7712572
Fax: +86-25-3353590

India

The Secretary
Indian Society of Soil Science
Division of Soil Science and Agricultural
Chemistry
Indian Agricultural Research Institute
New Delhi 110012
India
Tel: +91-11-5720991
Fax: +91-11-5755529
e-mail: Soilsoc@nde.vsnl.net.in

Indonesia

Secretary General
Soil Society of Indonesia
Center for Soil and Agroclimate Research
Jalan Ir. H. Juanda 98
Bogor 16113
Indonesia

Japan

Dr. Noritsugu Shimada, Secretary
The Japanese Society of Soil Science and Plant
Nutrition
(Nippon Dojyo-Hiryo Gakkai)
26-10-202, 6-Chome Hongo, Bunkyo-ku
Tokyo 113, Japan
Tel: +81-3-3815-2085
Fax: +81-3-3815-6018
e-mail: jssspn@blue.ocn.ne.jp

Korea

The Secretary General
The Korean Society of Soil Science and Fertilizer
c/o National Institute of Agricultural Science
and Technology
Rural Development Administration
Suwon, 440-707, Korea
Tel: +82-331-295-7335
Fax: +82-331-290-0217/0222

Malaysia

Dr. Fauziah, Honorary Secretary
Malaysian Society of Soil Science
Locked bag 254
43409 UPM Serdang
Selangor, West Malaysia
Malaysia
Fax: +60-3-943-4419
e-mail: fauziah@agri.upm.edu.my

The Philippines

Dr. Rogelio N. Concepcion, Director
Bureau of Soils and Water Management
Diliman Elliptical Rd.,
Quezon City,
The Philippines
Tel: +63-2-923-0454/920-4382
Fax: +63-2-920-4318
e-mail: bswm@pworld.net.th

Sri Lanka

Prof. Ranjith B. Mapa, President
Soil Science Society of Sri Lanka
Dept. of Soil Science
University of Peradeniya
Peradeniya
Sri Lanka
Tel: +94-8-88239/88354/88357/88657
Fax: +94-8-88041/88151

The Republic of China-Taiwan

Dr. W. C. Liu, General Secretary
The Chinese Society of Soil and Fertilizer
Sciences
54 Shen-Tsang Road
Tainan, Taiwan 70123
The Republic of China
Tel: +886-6-267-1911 ext. 358
Fax: +886-6-268-5425

Thailand

Dr. Tasnee Attanandana
Soil and Fertilizer Society of Thailand
c/o Department of Soils
Faculty of Agriculture
Kasetsart University
Bangkok 10903
Thailand
e-mail: agrtna@ku.ac.th

Vietnam

Dr. Vo Minh Kha, Member of Central Committee
Vietnam Soil Science Society
Fax: +84-4-21-4619